

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROTECTION SWITCHING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system supports 50 ms protection switching times independent of network architecture. The system includes multiple protection switch fabrics to perform facility protection switching for the signals and a central switch fabric to switch a subset of the signals in a non-facility protection switching manner among the protection switch fabrics. Linear and ring network configurations are supported by the system. The system has flexibility to perform Linear Automatic Protection Switching (LAPS), 5 Unidirection Path Switched Ring (UPSR) protection switching, and Bidirectional Line Switched Ring (BLSR) protection switching without burdening the central switch fabric with unnecessary or redundant traffic.

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